

STATE OF NEVADA



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
COMMISSION ON MINORITY AFFAIRS

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Commission on Minority Affairs was held on Monday, September 19, 2016 at 9:36 am, pursuant to public notice: Via video conference call between all locations : (Las Vegas). State Building LV 555 E. Washington Suite 4900 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 and Conference call: Carson City: 775-687-0999 Las Vegas: 702-486-5260 Participant's Collaboration Code: 64575

**1. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

A. Chair Commissioner Lee called the meeting to order at 9:36 am. - *Oath ceremony* -

B. **Present:** C. Lee (present); C. Chadha (present); C. Berna Rhodes-Ford Esq. (present) C Yolanda Flores MD (phone), *C. Gaspar Montañez (present)*; C. Cedric Cole (phone); C. *Ender Austin III (present)*; *C. Janelle Mack (present)* and Miriam Lira-Hickerson, Ombudsman of Consumer Affairs for Minorities-Department of B&I. (present).

B.1. Public Attendance:

C. Commissioners **Absent:** C. Kari Emm.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

n/a

**3. COMMISSION BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**

A. Approval of July 18, 2016, meeting minutes. Moved by C. Rhodes-Ford, seconded by C. Amar Chadha. Motion carried.

B. Roll call and introduction of guests: Mary Camin, CERT Program Specialist, City of Las Vegas / Guest speaker regarding emergency preparedness for small businesses-  
-- Reschedule for January 2017--

C. Subcommittee Reports:

a) Healthcare: Educate and distribute information regarding pediatric and family obesity. Event was distributed at the Reno event at the Atlantis Spa/Casino where feedback provided was regarding ability to access healthcare. C. Yolanda Flores MD will respond. There will be an upcoming December event is to share additional information about obesity and other healthcare resources with other community partners.

Chair C. Lee met with President of Andrea Agassi Foundation. He stated that goal of the at-risk students they serve is to make better health decisions and gain job skills. Chair C. Lee will be

sending C. Flores information about the Foundation's best practices and any other resources regarding healthcare. C. Janelle Mak will be joining the Healthcare committee.

- b) Education: C. Emm (Chair of Committee) and Chair C. Lee is also on the committee. One of the biggest items is the Clark County School District's empowerment efforts regarding what is being purchased and the priorities being advanced of the different schools. The committee is attending events to understand the intent. Charter schools are also looking to receive additional support. The committee is looking to share information from other state's best practices to advise the charter schools that are ready to implement to do so more quickly and assist those that need to assistance getting to the implementation stage. C. Austin stated if we would rather send the Governor the actual numbers or people's opinion and the consensus is the data. He asked if C. Cole has CCSD data regarding suspensions among minority students versus their white counterparts. Chair C. Lee enforced that we take the situations that are presented to us and provide the governor the recommendations. Intent for this term is to align ourselves with the legislation as these are the actions they are going to be taking and provide them the research and feedback we are provided. C. Cole suggested that we could add area in the report where there are topics we would like to further explore. C. Austin will join Committee.
- c) Housing: C. Chadha stated that the biggest change occurring is the GLVAR sales contract and there was no opposition (assumed that they are incredibly strong). Additionally, there are large amounts of minority people that are not taking advantage of all of the mortgage assistance programs. He stated one suggestion is that there should be more educational workshops provided through B&I or the committee. Chair C. Lee stated that there is a Committed to our Business Community event on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> where 500 small business were minority businesses were targeted. We could have a table at the event to share the information about housing and other committee resources. Another community healthcare event will be shared. C. Rhodes-Ford also said that there is an event at the Pearson Center where the information about the program (in partnership with Nevada Partners) that will be disseminated. C. Austin will connect C. Chada to NAHREP. C Chada wants to bring HUD, GLVAR and the Mortgage Lending Division to a meeting. They will be added to the February meeting. C. Montañez will be on this committee.
- d) Economic Development/Workforce Development: C. Cole has been working with the Nevada Equal Right Committee (NERC) for the Workforce Development part. Kara Jenkins from NERC can come to a meeting to provide information on how to disseminate information about discrimination. Chair C. Lee asked is if Kara from NERC can attend the October meeting. Chair C. Lee stated the Economic Development committee is working on things for small business like providing information about small seed money in the form of grants to small businesses could be something to help them succeed but crowdfunding has started to change that. There is a crowdfunding event in the first week of October for people to learn things like small business can sell equity in their firms through crowdfunding. C. Austin asked if Ruth Hodgins could share crowdfunding information to the minority community and Chair C. Lee stated that she has been generous in the past through partnerships.
- e) Legislative: C. Rhodes-Ford tasked with finding program that it already existed where the committee could represent themselves. The Committed to Small Business event will be the Legislative committee's event. When the legislative session comes around, the legislation put forward regarding minorities will be shared. If commissioners choose, all can go to Carson City and testify. Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson stated we have a banner and tablecloth. Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson suggested that the C. Rhodes-Ford put out some information about how to testify

by going to local meetings or links to meeting. Ombudsman also confirmed for C. Rhodes-Ford that the budget covers travel. C. Mack asked if there was a social media presence but C. Lee and Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson stated that there isn't yet because there isn't work to report yet. C. Austin will be on the committee. Chair C. Lee stated that each committee will have to submit a monthly committee report as they will be added to the annual report and reminded commissioners that they can participate in more than one committee. Moved by C. Austin, Seconded by C. Rhodes-Ford. Motion carried.

**D. Community liaison issues.**

An overview of C. Rhodes-Ford suggestion on informing the public about the current topic of law enforcement and the minority community was provided. C. Austin stated that there is an event he is on the committee of for Metro, City of North Las Vegas, and City of Henderson Police Departments on October 1<sup>st</sup> at Rancho High School. A panel conversation will occur. C. Chadha stated that the Multicultural Sheriff's Committee would be a group to work with as well and he will connect C. Rhodes-Ford. C. Austin moved to add a Law Enforcement committee to the Legislative committee. Seconded by C. Montañez. Motion Carried.

**E. Collateral development for Commission on Minority Affairs.**

The banner and tablecloths were shown. C. Rhodes-Ford and C. Mack will work on the collateral. Moved by C. Austin, Seconded by C. Montañez. Motion Carried.

**F. New business, community events, thoughts on collaborative engagement.**

C. Rhodes-Ford suggested that all events could be sent to Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson for dissemination. Chair C. Lee stated that there are issues that are brought to light that would affect users of Cannabis as an alternative health remedy but especially the minority community. It is open to the commission if anyone would like to undertake the task of going through the pros and cons of this and if so, it would be under the Healthcare Committee. Ombudsman provided everyone folders of information regarding the Committee and Chair C. Lee read the By-Laws. Chair C. Lee motioned for medical marijuana investigations and it will be moved the Healthcare Committee. Motion moved by C. Rhodes Ford. Seconded by C. Austin. Motion Carried.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

n/a

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Action to adjourn meeting at 11:29 am. Moved by Commissioner Rhodes-Ford, seconded by C Ender Austin III. Motion carried.